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Mrs. Bissell, Leader in Red Cross

CPYRGHT

Marie Truesdale Bissell, 77, who directed activities of 3 million Red Cross volunteers during World War II, died yesterday in Hartford, Conn., after a brief illness.

Mrs. Bissell maintained a winter residence in Washington at 1507 28th st. nw. and lived for the rest of the year in Farmington, Conn.



Mrs. Bissell

She was the daughter of the late William H. Truesdale, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. Her husband, Richard M. Bissell, who was president of the Hartford Fire Insurance Co., died in 1941.

Mrs. Bissell came to Washington as a Red Cross volunteer just after America's entry in World War II. She began working in the camp and hospital counsel service, furnishing recreation and comfort supplies.

The following year she was appointed assistant director of volunteer special services in charge of production, which was then the largest Red Cross volunteer activity.

She became national director of volunteer special services in 1943 and served until September, 1945.

Survivors include three children, Richard M. Bissell Jr., 3401 Newark st. nw., former Deputy Director for Mutual Security; William T. Bissell of Canton, Conn., and Mrs. Hector Prud'homme of Canton Center, Conn.

Services and burial will be in Farmington on Wednesday.